CENTRAL REGION USGS BLM SCIENCE PARTNERSHIP FUNDS

FY 02 Project/Activity Status Report Due: November 29, 2002

Date: October 7, 2002

Project/Activity Title: Gunnison Gorge National Conservation

Area: geology for land-use planning

Account Number: 7370-60730 Principal Investigator: Karl S. Kellogg

Partners/Collaborators and Affiliation: Karen Tucker (BLM, Montrose),

Gunnison Gorge NCA Manager; Richard

Grauch (USGS), PI, Mancos Shale Project; Robert Waltermire (USGS-

BRD), GIS assistance; Carol Quesenberry

(USGS), cartographic assistance.

Total Funding Approved: \$32,600.00 Total Expenditures: \$32,600.00

<u>Objective of Project/Activity:</u> (Provide short description of project/activity goals and list outcomes/products.)

The objective of the project is to create an inventory of geologic features in the NCA that can be keyed to a layer of an overall geographic information system (GIS). This database will be crucial for the implementation of the NCA plan and will provide material for displays, posters, signs, and environmental education projects. In addition, a descriptive geologic guide to the geology of the NCA, using the geologic inventory as its database, will emphasize the geologic features along the river corridor, which attracts most visitors. The guide will include photographs with descriptive narratives, diagrams to explain the geologic evolution of the region, and text that unfolds the geologic history of the gorge. A compiled geologic map will form the centerpiece for a descriptive poster describing the geologic and human-interest features of the NCA.

<u>Project/Activity Accomplishments:</u> (What outcomes/products were achieved including what benefits were derived and by whom?)

March, 2002. Met with Robert Waltermire, GIS Specialist with BRD, Ft. Collins
to compile all available geologic mapping for the NCA into a unified geologic
map. Robert subsequently created ARC/INFO coverages for the NCA that will be
used for a geologic map of the NCA. Work is underway to finish editing of the
map.

- 2. April 25 and 26, 2002, a meeting and field visit to the NCA was conducted with Karen Tucker, NCA Manager, to scope the problem and lay the groundwork for future work.
- 3. June 21, 2002. Working Capital Fund Publication Plan prepared with Publications Group to create a geologic map as the centerpiece of a descriptive and colorful poster for the NCA. Carol Quesenberry will do the artwork.
- 4. July 9-13, 2002. Fieldwork conducted in the NCA, including along the river corridor. Over 300 photographs (both slides and digital images) taken and several key areas mapped.

Results: (Describe status of project to date if not complete)

Due to the short time available during FY02, as well as other project commitments, considerable work remains to be done to complete all work on the Gunnison Gorge project. Work to be completed includes:

- 1. Creation of a poster highlighting the geology of the Gunnison Gorge NCA. Funds have been placed in a Working Capital Funds account, and Carol Quesenberry (CPG) is ready to start work on the layout.
- 2. Creation of an inventory of geologic features, keyed to photographs. The photos have been taken and are now catalogued; most are now annotated.
- 3. Writing a geologic field guide to the Gunnison Gorge NCA with annotated photographs.